

Nature & You

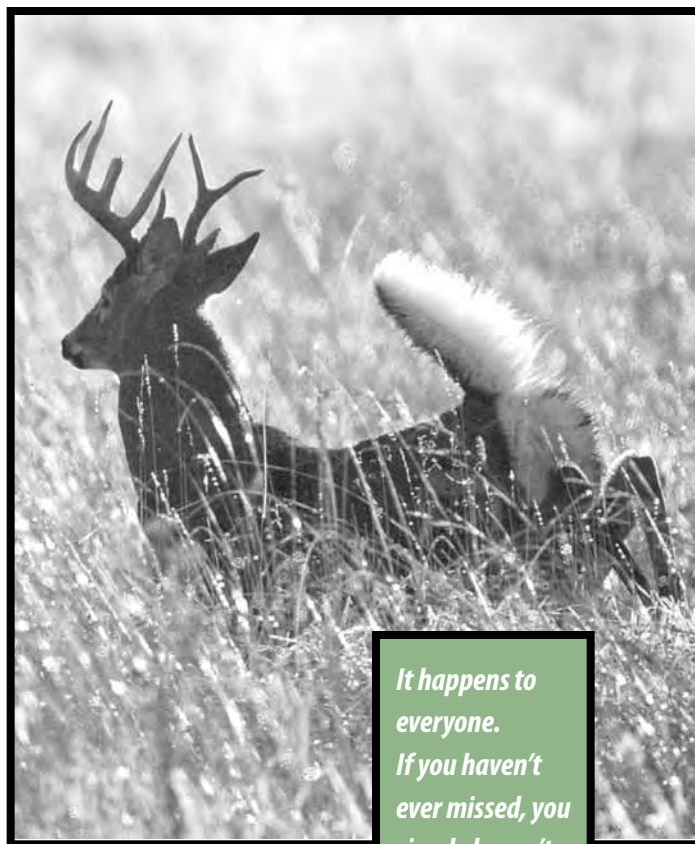
News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • September/October 2014



DEALING WITH DEFEAT...

The time had finally come. After a journey halfway across the state to camp in adverse weather conditions and severe storms, my first few days had been futile. Four days passed to be exact. Each morning I was up well before the sun. Each morning I elevated myself in the best location I could find. Each evening I climbed down as the darkness descended around me. Each evening defeat walked me back to camp. It all made me question my decisions. Early on day one, I had granted safe passage to a trio of button bucks. As my time faded I wondered if I had made the right decision. Had I put in enough time scouting? Had I found the best location? What could I have done differently? I had taken only a couple days of leave from work and my time had left me only good memories with family and friends.

With my return to the big city came all the responsibilities of life. My time at home and at work for the next week was going to be pretty busy. I knew there wasn't going to be much time left. After hours of constant complaining, a friend of mine finally agreed to throw me a bone. I think it was in part just to silence my whine. We had devised a scheme that would find us overlooking a large cornfield that had just been cut. We knew the deer would be taking full advantage of the surplus grain



It happens to everyone. If you haven't ever missed, you simply haven't shot enough.

left in the field. It seemed too good to be true. It had to work. Failure at this point would likely seal my fate for the entire season.

That takes us right back to our starting point; day six of the November portion of the Missouri firearms deer season. The sun had just set and time was running out. As if cued, a deer stepped out of the brush and into the edge of the cornfield. Then more deer appeared. In just a couple minutes the field was now teeming with deer. They were closing the distance fairly fast. My excitement grew. It was going to happen. They were 200 yards away and heading my way; now 150, now 100, now 80. The time had come. I aligned the crosshairs of my scope behind the shoulder of a large mature doe. As I settled in I took a moment to verify the shot was clear. I checked the

foreground and the background. My backstop was good so I applied pressure to the trigger. My rifle bucked back and flame bellowed from the end. In an instant I went from an all-time high to a rock bottom low. A check of the area confirmed what I already knew. My time and effort was all in vain. My shot had not been true. Simply put, I had missed.

It happens to everyone. If you haven't ever missed, you simply haven't shot enough. That doesn't change the way it feels. It stinks to miss. It stinks to fail.

The good news is that you have the ability to change the outcome of your next adventure. A bit of practice really can make the difference. Practice is important for success in all of life's endeavors. Hunting and shooting are no different. You need to practice. Let us help you if you're not sure where to start. The friendly staffs at both Lake City and Parma Woods Shooting Ranges are professionally trained and eager to help you. If you don't believe us, just ask. Don't let inexperience hold you back either. We all started void of any experience. Your MDC staffed ranges specialize in helping you. Take advantage of them and go practice today.

— Nathan Woodland, Range Supervisor

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed Thanksgiving Day, day after

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

What's for Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays · 3 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes are fed every other Friday (Sept. 5 & 19 and Oct. 3, 17 & 31).

Hidden Nature

September 6 · Saturday · 1–2:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Who's hiding under that log? We love to explore nature, but we often forget to slow down and look at the amazing details awaiting us. Join us as we discover the smaller plants and animals that are hidden right under our noses.

Babes in the Woods: Creek Crawling

September 9 · Tuesday · 10–11 AM

Registration required

(babes under 36 months)

Let's take your little one to a creek! We will take a short hike to Burr Oak Creek to splash and experience this watery world.

Conservation Kids Club: Gone Fishin'

September 9 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Kids! Join in on the fun as we learn a few fishing secrets and cast our lines. Learn how to land the big one, how to filet your catch, cook it and best of all – taste it!

Little Acorns: Caterpillar Craze

September 10 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM

or 1–2 PM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

This is a great time of year to spot caterpillars munching on leaves before they disappear into their chrysalis or cocoon for the winter. Come learn about these magically transforming insects up close.

Home School: Metamorphosis

September 10 · Wednesday · 10–11:30 AM for

ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8

Registration required

From caterpillar to butterfly and from tadpole to frog, some animals undergo tremendous changes during their life cycle. Join us as we explore metamorphosis.

Family Archery

September 13 · Saturday · 1–2:30 PM or

2:30–4 PM *Registration required* (families

with children ages 8+)

Archery is a great way for families to discover nature and learn a new skill together. We



will help you perfect your stance to shoot consistently and accurately during this fun-filled program.

Family Fishing

September 20 · Saturday · 9–11 AM

Registration required (families)

Enjoy the early fall weather as you take your family fishing. We will teach some fishing basics, provide equipment and worms, then let you and your family try your luck at fishing.

Monarch Tagging

September 20 · Saturday · 10–11 AM

or 11–Noon *Registration required*

(families with children ages 4+)

Monarch butterflies are now migrating to their winter home in central Mexico, and we are ready to tag them! Become a scientist for a day by capturing, tagging and releasing these unique butterflies.



Women's Backpacking Trip

September 20–21 · Saturday–Sunday

8 AM–6 PM *Registration required*

(adult women; girls ages 14–17 are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult)

Embark on an amazing journey to a land of dolomite glades, rock bridges and sinkholes...also known as the Missouri Ozarks. We will hike a seven mile backpack loop that is rated as moderate in difficulty. This trip involves carrying a 30 lb. backpack up and down hills in rocky terrain.

Participants must attend and complete a test hike and orientation on Sept. 11 from 6–9 p.m. We have a limited amount of gear to share and we'll help you decide what to bring and what to expect.

Outdoor Cooking

September 24 · Wednesday · 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (adults)

Are you tired of the same old cold sandwiches at the campsite? Have your taste buds outgrown hotdogs over the fire? Well we have the solution for you! Come discover some easy but delicious recipes that will make you want to go camping just so you can cook outdoors!

NOTICE: Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area will be closed for a Youth Managed Deer Hunt November 1 and 2. The Nature Center will remain open on Saturday, November 1, but the trails, roads, parking lots and all off trail areas will be closed.



Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

September 27 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

October 25 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

Walk-in (ages 2+)

Join us for story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

In Search of Spiders

September 27 · Saturday · 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Spiders are an amazing group of predators who often don't get much respect. Come learn about some of the more than 300 species that reside in Missouri as we search for and observe these unique eight-legged creatures in their natural habitat.

Wild Ones: Pickin' up Pawpaws

September 27 · Saturday · 1–3 PM

Registration required (adults)

Foraging in early autumn is a great way to discover native wild edible fruits. Learn how to identify pawpaw and persimmon trees and how to prepare their fruit to create delicious and nutritious treats.

SPECIAL EVENT!

Superheroes and the Curse of Alien Invaders

October 4 · Saturday · 1–3 or 5:30–8:30 PM

Character Meet and Greet · 4–4:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

If you listen carefully, you may hear the incredible story of the war between the



Superheroes and the alien invaders! Meet Superman, Batman, Aqua Girl, Wonder Woman and many others along the trail

as they battle against the Alien Invaders of Burr Oak Woods! Come dressed as your favorite Superhero!

Babes in the Woods: Backdoor to Bethany Falls

October 7 · Tuesday · 10–11 AM

Registration required

(babes under 36 months)

Don't miss out on the fun! Hike out with your little one to one of the most popular trails in Kansas City. We will meet at the Nature Center. Don't forget your camera!

Conservation Kids Club: Batty about Caves

October 7 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Caves are dark and full of adventure. The truth they tell is as incredible as the legends



that have been created about them. Discover this fantastic hidden world in the Burr Oak Woods portable cave!

Little Acorns: Habitat Sweet Habitat

October 8 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

October 25 · Saturday · 10–11 AM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

What do we call neighborhoods that animals live in? Habitats! We will learn about the different habitats of Burr Oak Woods and what animals live in each one.

Home School: Predators

October 8 · Wednesday · 10–11:30 AM for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8 *Registration required*

Predators help to maintain the delicate balance of life in our ecosystems. Explore the awesome adaptations predators have developed to fulfill their role in the web of life!

Native Plant Pressed Art

October 11 · Saturday · 1–2:30 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Discover some beautiful native plants as you craft your own "museum-worthy" piece of art from pressed flowers and leaves. Learn how to press and dry flowers with a mini-plant press that will be yours to keep!

Introduction to Deer Hunting

October 18 · Saturday · 10 AM–3 PM

Registration required (ages 11+)

Have you thought about hunting, but just don't know where to start? Deer hunting is a challenging yet exciting tradition. Learn the basics of pursuing white-tailed deer, including scouting locations, hunting methods, how to process your own deer and more.

Night Hike at Burr Oak Woods

October 23 · Thursday · 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 6+)

Don't be afraid of the dark, there are some pretty amazing things that happen at night. Take a night hike with a naturalist in search of nocturnal wildlife that call Burr Oak Woods home. We will finish our hike with s'mores around a campfire.

Wild Ones: Soup and Fable

October 23 · Thursday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (adults)

Join us for an unforgettable evening as we savor the bounty of a wild autumn harvest, share warm and wild native teas, then relax with a good story and a native dessert.

Fall Fashion

October 25 · Saturday · 1–2 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Create your very own leaf print t-shirt. We will take a short hike, shuffling and kicking our way through the fallen leaves, collecting a few to print and show off on what's sure to be the most natural and vibrant addition to your closet.

Cooking Wild: Venison

November 1 · Saturday · 1–2:30 PM

Registration required beginning Oct. 1 (adults)

It is deer season, and for many Missourians, that means fun, outdoor adventure and a freezer full of venison! Join us as we dig in to some great recipes including sausage, jerky, and other tasty treats.

Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • mdc.mo.gov/node/282



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday
and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

Teens & Firearms

September 10 · Wednesday · 5–8:30 PM
Registration required (ages 13–17)

The course is specifically designed for teens who would like to explore the safe handling of firearms. The group will meet once a month and uncover some fun and exciting new challenges. Come and join this new group as they discover new and exciting experiences, such as rifles, pistols, muzzleloaders, shotguns and archery!

Basic Handgun

September 13 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM
October 26 · Sunday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 18+)

This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics covered will include safety in the home, types of handguns, different parts of the handgun, the variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

Introduction to Skeet Shooting

September 14 · Sunday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Tired of trap shooting and looking for a quicker game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time.

Waterfowl Calls

September 17 · Wednesday · 5–8:30 PM

Registration required (ages 16+)

This class will take a look into the history of the modern duck and goose calls that are so popular today. Students will assemble, tune and learn basic notes that are effective for waterfowl calling. Materials are provided and each student will take their call home.

Basic Shotgun

September 18 · Thursday · 6–8:30 PM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Introduction to shotgun shooting must begin with knowledge of the equipment. Knowing your shotgun is the first step to knowing how to shoot. This course is to give the student a basic understanding of types of shotguns, actions, shotshells and follow through. Range time is included in the class.

Women's Firearm Safety–Phase II

September 20 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (women ages 18+)

Pre-requisite Phase-I: Let's learn more about handguns. This course was designed for women who are interested in gaining more information about firearms. Topics discussed include storage of firearms, different types of handguns and calibers. Build your marksmanship skills with more range time and how to clean your firearm.

Decoy Carving

October 1 · Wednesday · 5–9 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Whether sitting on a fireplace mantel or floating in a wetland, hand-crafted cork body decoys are eye-catchers and great conversational pieces! Learn how to create your own cork body decoy at this fun and educational workshop. MDC staff will guide you through the steps in turning a block of cork into a functional decoy.

Effective Wing Shooting

October 3 · Friday · 6–9:30 PM

October 4 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Like to improve your wing shooting skills using non-toxic shot? Join us in learning the proper way to select the best ammunition and choke combination for different migratory and upland game bird hunting. We will discuss the latest technology on non-toxic shotgun ammunition, how to judge distances and properly patterning your shotgun.

Field to Freezer

October 14 · Tuesday · 6–9:30 PM

Registration required (all ages)

What do you do after you have harvested your deer? This course will demonstrate how to properly field dress, skin and quarter a deer. For those of you who have a big buck to take to the taxidermist, we can show you the proper procedures in preserving that trophy. After you have quartered your deer, you will learn how to properly cut up the deer into choice cuts for your freezer.

Cable Restraint

October 17 · Friday · 6–9 PM

Registration required (all ages)

If you are a trapper looking for another tool to help you on the trapping line; then you might want to explore cable restraint. The course of instructions includes general history of cable restraint, rules and regulations, length of season and more. This class is a requirement to trap with the cable restraint technique and certification will appear on your Resident Trapping Permit. This class will fill quickly.

Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • mdc.mo.gov/node/283

Responsible Hunters Help Wildlife

One of the main objectives of hunter education programs is to promote and ensure the future of wildlife conservation. This is achieved by teaching hunters to be safe, knowledgeable, responsible and involved hunters. Hunter education graduates understand the importance of using firearms safely, complying with hunting laws and behaving ethically. Graduates also learn how they support conservation through permit fees and self-imposed taxes on the equipment they use. There are nine chapters of information taught in the Missouri Hunter Education Class. Topics covered include:

The value of hunter education and why hunter education is so important.

Wildlife conservation and wildlife management principles.

Hunting laws and being a responsible and ethical hunter.

Outdoor safety, including survival skills and dealing with emergencies.

Basic shooting skills and marksmanship.

Basic hunting techniques like scouting for game, hunting strategies, where to shoot game and what to do after the shot.

Alternative hunting equipment like bows, crossbows, muzzleloaders and air rifles.

An introduction to firearms including information of different types of actions, common features of firearms, how to choose the right ammunition and how to safely clean and store firearms when not being used.

How to be a safe hunter including hunting safety rules, how to properly carry your guns, how to deal with obstacles, how to safely transport guns and zones of fire.

If you're interested in learning more about the hunter education program, where you can take a class or how you can get involved in hunter education, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/3722

Discover Nature Hunting: The White-Tailed Deer

September 14 · Sunday · 9 AM–4 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Have you ever considered giving deer hunting a try? Have you been hunting, but struggle finding success? Join our crew of experienced deer hunters as we provide the information you need to consistently locate deer. This class will cover deer biology, hunting equipment, hunting techniques and more to make you a better deer hunter.

Discover Nature: Fall Turkey Hunting Workshop

September 28 · Sunday · 9 AM–4 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

The month of October offers hunters a crack at harvesting their own turkey for Thanksgiving dinner, but few turkey hunters take advantage of the opportunity. Turkey habits change throughout the year making fall turkey hunting much different than spring turkey hunting.

Discover Nature: Family Squirrel Hunting Clinic

October 5 · Sunday · 1–7 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Hunting squirrels is a time honored tradition and rite of passage for many youths. Our team of experienced hunters will teach everything you need to know for hunting squirrels. We'll talk about regulations, equipment, how to find squirrels and what to do if you take a



few. This class involves an actual hunting experience, so all participants must meet legal any requirements for hunting.

Discover Nature: Introduction to Hunting

October 18 · Saturday · 8:30 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Recent studies indicate that many people have an interest in hunting but aren't sure how to get started. This class was developed from the ground up to provide that starting point. If you too have an interest, then this is



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol/shotgun range, and archery range.

HOURS:

May 1–September 30

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

October 1–April 30

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol/shotgun/range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

the class for you. Our instructors will discuss many details of hunting including: benefits of hunting, options for different types of hunting, selecting the right equipment, hunting laws, finding a place to hunt and more.

Firearms Cleaning and Care

October 21 · Tuesday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Cleaning and maintaining your firearms is an important part of responsible gun ownership. It ensures that your firearms will function safely and reliably. Our certified firearms instructors will get you started down the right path for proper maintenance and care regardless of your motivations for firearm ownership.

Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM
Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

Scout Program

September 2 · Tuesday · Evening

October 7 · Tuesday Evening

Registration required (scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to Discovery Center. Education Specialist staff will provide a program helping your scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri scout groups of 10-24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact Wendy Parrett at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1141 or Wendy.Parrett@mdc.mo.gov to schedule an evening program on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

Meet the Artist

September 2 · Tuesday · 5 PM – 6:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

During the months of August and September Discovery Center will exhibit the artwork of Marky Mutchler. Her passion

for nature and art has led to beautiful paintings and sketches that are specifically centered on birds. Take a moment to stop by Discovery Center to view Marky's art as well as meet this enthusiastic and inspiring young artist.

Junkyard Art

September 2 · Tuesday · 5:30–7:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Bring your creative spirit to a program that is all about trash. Enjoy the experience of turning various items of junk into wildlife art. You will be helping to keep trash out of the landfill while leaving with a unique work of art.

Home School Day on the River

September 3 · Wednesday · 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Walk-in (home school students ages 8+)

It's been a long, hot summer; let's spend a cool day on the river! Join us for a special day exploring the wonders of a local stream. We will try our luck at bank fishing, dip netting for aquatic invertebrates and hiking the floodplain forest. We'll wrap it all up with lunch on the gravel bar; we'll provide hotdogs and s'mores, and you provide your own sides. Bring your old shoes, bug spray/sunscreen and a water bottle... the rest will be provided. Call Discovery Center at (816) 759-7300 for directions and backup rain plan option.

Nature Nuts Storytime

September 6 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

September 20 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Migrating Marvels

September 6 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

What do you do when the weather turns chilly? Do you snuggle up beside the fire or put on extra layers of clothing to stay warm when outside? The incredible humming bird does something extraordinary; it begins its migration to warmer locations sometimes more than 500 miles away!! Join us as we

learn about our amazing feathered friend and how it and other birds migrate. We'll make crafts focusing on some of our favorite birds as well as learn some of the different ways they communicate.

Discover Nature KC Series: Missouri State Parks near KC

September 16 · Tuesday · 7 PM

No registration required (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant) Would you like to learn more about what the Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites have to offer? This program will give an overall view of Missouri parks and sites with an emphasis on what the Kansas City Area parks and sites have to offer. From camping, fishing, and hiking to Dutch oven cooking, canoeing, kayaking and more.

Monarch Mania

September 20 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

The monarch is without a doubt one of the most remarkable insects we have the opportunity to enjoy in Missouri. Discover the majesty of this butterfly through various hands on activities that will leave you in a state of "Monarch Mania." This program will help you learn about migration, metamorphosis and conservation efforts for monarchs. Participants will have the opportunity to tag and release a monarch.

Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit

The Junior Duck Stamp is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service each year to recognize the talents and environmental stewardship of young people throughout the United States. This competition was open to student's kindergarten through high school to create artwork depicting North American Waterfowl. First place winners from each state advance to the national competition. The winning artwork will be produced as the National Junior Duck Stamp for 2014. Take a few moments this September to view the artwork on display in the Burr Oak Woods auditorium. The exhibit will move to the Discovery Center in October.



Nature Nuts Storytime

October 4 • Saturday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM
Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Fruits of the Forest

October 4 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

Foraging the fall forest for wild foods is fun and rewarding when you know what to eat and where to look. Pawpaws, persimmons, hickory nuts, wild grapes, and an assortment of wild foods will be on display to identify and sample.

HOWLoween Special Event

October 17 • Friday • 6–9 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

Our big event for fall will be on a Friday night for the first time ever! Discover nature's not scary even at night while taking a hike on the Wild Side Walk to meet some of Missouri's favorite creepy crawlies. Kids will have a howling good time exploring nature stations like Track or Treat, The Bone Yard and a live owl program by Lakeside Nature Center. It will be a howling fun, free and unforgettable event!

Discovery Center Closed

October 18 • Saturday
Discovery Center is closed Saturday, Oct. 18 due to the Kansas City Marathon route along 47th Street and Troost Avenue. Gardens and trails will still be open during daylight hours.

Discover Nature KC Series: Kansas City Natural Spaces

October 21 • Tuesday • 7 PM
No registration required (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant) Join this travel journal style program to learn about beautiful spaces in and around Kansas City. Some locales may be old favorites, others new treasures. You'll learn what amenities, trails and special features await your visit to Conservation Areas close to Kansas City.



Marky Mutchler Art Exhibit

Discovery Center is pleased to have Marquette “Marky” Mutchler’s artwork on display during the months of August and September. With a “life list” of over 300 birds Marky has a passion for birds, nature and art.

Marky’s love for drawing what she sees in nature has led to various awards. In 2011 her detailed drawing of a red-tailed hawk won second place overall in the Missouri Student Art contest. Marky took first place in two divisions of an art contest held at Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary in 2012. In 2013 her painting of a nighthawk took first place in the youth division of the American Birders Association Bird of the Year Art Contest.

Marky is a freshman at Liberty North High School and hopes she can inspire other young minds through her love of nature and art.

There will be a reception and opening for her art exhibit at the Discovery Center on Tuesday, Sept. 2 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Stop by and meet this remarkable young artist and experience her work and love for birds.

Journey South

Change is in the air. As daylight gives way to longer nights and the temperatures drop, some species that make Missouri a summer home transition to their winter habitats. You may notice the sky and trees host a variety of colorful birds not seen other times of year. Be on the lookout for both monarch butterflies and birds flying through Kansas City on their way to warmer climates.

As the temperatures dip down, monarch butterflies head to the Oyamel fir forest in Mexico. These insects fly thousands of miles to reach 12 mountain tops they have never been to before. They overwinter in Mexico, in March; tens of millions of monarchs will head north looking for food for the larval stage. Assist the hungry caterpillars by growing milkweed at home. To learn more about these butterflies, join us for Monarch Mania at Discovery Center on Saturday, September 20 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Weighing in at about ¼ of a pound,



ruby-throated hummingbirds are flying marvels. Due to their high metabolism, they need to eat frequently. Help attract these beauties by growing beautiful

and tasty native nectar plants including: columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*, prairie blazingstar, *Liatris pycnostachia*, wild bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*, trumpet creeper, *Campsis radicans* and red buckeye, *Aesculus pavia*. Since they need a constant supply of flowering plants for their food, during fall ruby-throated hummingbirds migrate to the warmth of Central America. These tiny birds often cross the Gulf of Mexico in a single flight. Explore the hummingbird's world by attending the Migrating Marvels program at Discovery Center on Saturday, September 6 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Celebrate National Hunting & Fishing Day

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Ducks Unlimited (DU) will celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27, at the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area, 12405 SE Ranson Road, Lee's Summit.

Missouri is a great place to hunt and fish. This event is a celebration for those experienced in the outdoors. But educational instruction in skills such as fishing, trap shooting and archery will offer newcomers a chance to discover nature. All activities are free, no advance registration is required. Call 816-622-0900 for more information.



DU will offer free Greenwing Memberships to youngsters. Volunteers will teach about the values of wetlands and uplands to wildlife, native plants and insects. Parents and children can explore the duck wing maze.

MDC staff and volunteers will teach basic fishing skills. Target archery and air rifle ranges will include instructors. Trap shooting will be offered with ammunition and shotguns provided. Exhibits and displays by MDC and conservation partners will let visitors test wildlife identification skills or touch real animal furs.

The celebration at the Reed area is sponsored in part by the J.E. Fehsenfeld Family Foundation in memory of Jan M. Dillow.

National Hunting and Fishing Day was first proclaimed on May 2, 1972, by President Richard M. Nixon.

"I urge all citizens to join with outdoor sportsmen in the wise use of our natural resources and in insuring their proper management for the benefit of future generations," Nixon wrote.

Since then, each year on the 4th Saturday of September national, state and local conservation organizations celebrate Hunting and Fishing day by providing citizens the opportunity to appreciate our natural resources through sport.

Missouri is blessed with bountiful forest, fish and wildlife resources thanks to citizen support for science based conservation and natural resource management. On Sept. 27, enjoy the outdoors.



October Artist Mark Bower at Burr Oak Woods

Mark Bower is a physician with a passion for photographing the mushrooms of the Ozarks. By lowering our focus to ground level, he shows us an underappreciated view of nature. These pictures were all taken either on a hillside along Bull Creek in Christian County or at the Valley Water Mill Park north of Springfield.

Mark is a member of the Springfield Plateau Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists, the Missouri Mycological Society (MOMS) and North American Mycological Association (NAMA). His photos will be on display at Burr Oak Woods through the month of October.

Shooting Ranges extend hours for deer season

Parma Woods and Lake City Shooting Ranges & Outdoor Education Centers will be providing additional opportunities for hunters to get sighted-in this year. Beginning on Oct. 17, Parma Woods Shooting Range will remain open to the public Friday through Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. The range will remain closed for maintenance on Wednesday and Thursday. These hours will remain in effect through Nov. 25. Parma Woods will be closed on Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day. For information call 816-891-9941.

On Sept. 17, Lake City Shooting Range will return to its seasonal hours of 12 noon to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Extended hours for white-tailed deer season sighting-in will be Wednesday, October 15 through Friday, November 14, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Nov. 15, 2014, Lake City Range will return to its seasonal hours which are noon to 4:30 p.m. For information call 816-249-3194.



MDC Discover Nature programs help Missourians discover and explore nature while providing expert instruction and hands-on activities.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

**Discovery Center,
Parma Woods and
Lake City Shooting Ranges**
will be closed for these
state holidays:

**Labor Day, September 1
Columbus Day, October 13**